| Issue | No-Action Alternative | Management Alignment Alternative |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Sagebrush Focal Area (SFA) | - 181,100 acres of SFA (Box Elder and Rich County) | - 0 acres of SFA |
| Designations/Withdrawal | - Recommended for withdrawal and prioritized for | - Return to underlying management (usually Priority Habitat |
| Recommendation | treatments/livestock permits | Management Areas—{PHMA}) – no withdrawal recommended |
| Administering the | - No additional disturbance if an area has >3% disturbance | - If project design and site conditions indicate a project will |
| Disturbance and Density Caps | or an average of >1 facility/640 acres | improve habitat, exceedances of disturbance and density caps are allowed |
| Modifying Habitat Objectives | - Values based on standard vegetation data, differentiated | - Values based on micro-site vegetation data |
| | by populations. | combined with broad vegetation, climatic, and elevation data. |
| | - Adjustments can be made at the local level based on | - Adjustments can be made at the local level based on local |
| | local science | science |
| General Habitat Management | - 448,600 acres of GHMA | - 0 acres of GHMA, and removing associated management |
| Areas (GHMA) in Utah | - Includes lek buffers, required design features, net | - Management in place prior to the 2015 Plan Amendment would |
| | conservation gain, habitat objectives, leasing prioritization | remain |
| | - Management in place prior to the 2015 Plan Amendment | - Avoid indirect impacts on PHMA |
| | would remain | - Replace occupied habitat developed outside PHMA by |
| | | improving habitat in PHMA |
| Waivers, Exceptions, and | - In SFA, no WEMs | - No SFA |
| Modifications (WEMs) for | - In PHMA, only one lease exception and no waivers or | - Exception and modification in PHMA if the |
| No Surface Occupancy | modifications | development is in non-habitat and doesn't indirectly impact habitat |
| (NSO) Stipulations | - To grant the exception, the state, BLM, and Fish and | - Would still need to apply minimization measures (3%, noise, |
| | Wildlife Service must all agree it will benefit Greater | etc.) |
| | Sage-Grouse | - Waiver if the area is no longer PHMA |
| Considering Exceptions to | - Non-habitat portions of GHMA can be developed | - Non-habitat portions of PHMA can be developed if it does not |
| Greater Sage-Grouse | without restriction, but not non-habitat portions of PHMA | indirectly impact habitat |
| Restrictions in PHMA | | |
| Application of Lek Buffers | - Unclear whether buffers are to "assess and address | - Clarifies that buffers are to "assess and address impacts" to |
| | impacts" or "not allow activities" within the buffer | maintain lek persistence |
| | distances | - Adjust buffers with local scientific data |
| | - Adjust buffers with local scientific data | |
| Adaptive Management | - Determine the cause of a decline after management | - Determine cause of decline first, then apply |
| | changes have been made | specifically designed response |
| | - If area recovers, another plan amendment would be | - If area recovers, return to original management |
| | needed to change management | - If birds are no longer present, do not manage as PHMA anymore |

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| Issue | No-Action Alternative | Management Alignment Alternative |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Prioritization of Mineral | - In addition to NSO stipulations, prioritize oil and gas | - Remove prioritization objective and rely on NSO stipulation and |
| Leasing | leasing outside of PHMA and GHMA | other measures to protect habitat |
| Land Disposal and Exchanges | - No disposals of PHMA or GHMA unless no impacts on | - Can consider disposal of PHMA if the disposal will not |
| | Greater Sage-Grouse or habitat | compromise the distribution or abundance of the population |
| Predation | - Collaborate with applicable government entities to | - Same as No-Action, plus support and encourage efforts to |
| | control predator populations | minimize impacts from predators |
| | | - Remove trees with unoccupied corvid nests during habitat |
| | | treatments |
| Burial of Transmission Lines | - Require burial of transmission lines unless "not | - Minimize and mitigate impacts from transmission lines, |
| | technically feasible." | considering options that may include burial |
| Modifying Habitat | - Projects must provide a net conservation gain for Greater | - Projects must improve the condition of Greater Sage-Grouse |
| Management Area | Sage-Grouse | habitat |
| Boundaries | | |
| Clarifying Grazing Systems | - Repeats regulations, policies, and management actions | - Focuses specifically on identifying and minimizing improper |
| and Prioritization of Grazing | from other sections | livestock grazing |
| Permits | | - Removes actions that repeat regulations, policies, or managemen |
| | | from other sections |
| Clarifying Management of | - Includes a sentence that could be interpreted as | - Removes the sentence - remaining language still manages water |
| Water Developments for | potentially impinging on the State's authority to manage | developments for neutral or beneficial impacts on Greater Sage- |
| Livestock | water rights | Grouse |
| Clarifying the Role of the | - Does not specifically direct engagement of state, local | - Adds language to clarify that offices should engage State, local |
| BLM, State of Utah, and | and tribal governments during implementation-level travel | and tribal governments |
| Counties with Respect to | planning | |
| Travel Management Planning | | |
| Clarifying Management of | - Coal unsuitability will be determined when a lease is | - Clarifies that the unsuitability process will be |
| Surface Coal Mining | requested, but then declares that all PHMA is "essential | conducted when a lease is requested based on site-specific |
| | habitat" for the purposes of the suitability criteria | information, including identification of "essential habitat |
| Decisions that Require | - Includes several actions that direct consideration of | - Removes direction to consider specific alternatives, |
| Analysis of Specific | specific alternatives during environmental reviews | instead allowing the NEPA process to identify |
| Alternatives during | | alternatives based on site-specific issues |
| Implementation | | |

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